

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejection.

Claims 6-8 and 15-17 are again rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,627,707 to Tani et al., hereinafter *Tani*, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,043,823 to Kodaira et al., hereinafter *Kodaira*.

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that Claims 1-5, 9-14 and 18-22 are allowed. Thus, Claims 6-8 and 15-17 are the only claims at issue, with Claims 6 and 15 being independent. Applicants also thank the Examiner for the careful explanation of the rejection, which is helpful in preparing the foregoing amendments.

Essentially, the Examiner continues to interpret the conversion in claims 6 and 15 as converting the caption group so that the character strings do not overlap. In response, claims 6 and 15 have been carefully amended to clarify that the conversion of the first caption group and the second caption group into a third caption group is done so that a character string in the first caption group differs from a character string in the second caption group such that the third caption group identifies the drawing in the first document with a different identifier than is used to identify the drawing in the second document. As now amended, the claims define more than merely avoiding positional overlap.

As presently recited, a conversion means of claim 6 converts the first caption group and the second caption group into a third caption group so that a character string in the first caption group and a character string in the second caption group are different from each other such that the third caption group identifies the drawing

in the first document with a different identifier than is used to identify the drawing in the second document. Similarly, a conversion unit of claim 15 converts the first caption group and the second caption group into a third caption group so that a character string in the first caption group differs from a character string in the second caption group such that the third caption group identifies the drawing in the first document with a different identifier than is used to identify the drawing in the second document. After conversion, since the character string which was in the first caption group and the character string which was in the second caption group are different, each character string identifies a different drawing with different identifiers. Namely, Claims 6 and 15 define that character strings that are different from each other are identified after conversion.

The Examiner alleges that *Tani* discloses rearrangement of documents so that areas of documents do not overlap. However, this rearrangement is only to avoid positional overlap. Avoiding the positional overlap disclosed by *Tani* is different from converting character strings to identify different drawings of claims 6 and 15 of the present invention. *Tani* does not disclose anything about converting the contents of documents to identify different drawings with different identifiers.

In addition, though *Kodaira* discloses document data having at least one drawing, *Kodaira* does not disclose converting the contents of documents to identify different drawings.

Since both *Tani* and *Kadaira* do not disclose the conversion means of claim 6 or the conversion unit of claim 15, claims 6 and 15 are patentable over *Tani* in view of *Kodaira*.

Claims 7, 8, 16 and 17 are dependent from claims 6 and 15 respectively.

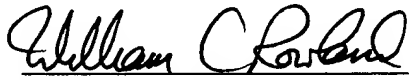
Thus, dependent claims 7, 8, 16 and 17 are also patentable over *Tani* in view of *Kodaira* for at least the same reasons as claims 6 and 15.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejection. In the event that there are any questions concerning this response, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: 12-21-2006

By: 
William C. Rowland
Registration No. 30,888

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404
703 836 6620